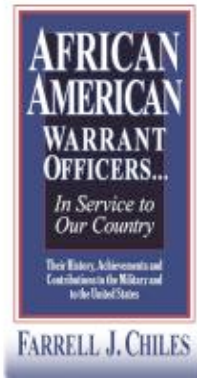


AFRICAN AMERICAN WARRANT OFFICERS...

*In Service to
Our Country*

Their History, Achievements and
Contributions to the Military and
to the United States

FARRELL J. CHILES



African American Warrant Officers... In Service to Our Country tells the stories of unsung African American warrant officers who have served our country in and out of the military. This collection of historical articles, inspiring biographies, and profiles highlights the significant contributions of individual African American warrant officers from World War II to the present, with remarkable detail and language befitting their valor.

African American Warrant Officers In Service to Our Country

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Advance Praise for African American Warrant Officers...In Service to Our Country

Farrell J. Chiles, author and military historian, enlightens readers by providing historical snapshots of little known African American warrant officers; some of whom broke barriers, made history, and are still serving. The book is a "must have" for history scholars, African American studies, and research studies about the warrant officer.

- Ida Tyree-Hyche, Esq., Author, International Editor

Started reading the book and could not put it down. That doesn't happen often as I am not a dedicated reader. But, I must say that the information contained is both interesting and informative. I would purchase this book! Also, after reading, I was humbled to be a part of these truly outstanding soldiers. A job well done. I believe others will be of the same opinion.

- Raymond Benson, CW5, Retired, USA

With his book "African American Warrant Officers...In Service to Our Country", Farrell J. Chiles has written a book that should be on every military historian's bookshelf. While many books tell of the black experience in war, Chiles' book illuminates from a previously unexplored angle. It recounts the bravery and heroism of blacks who served as "Quiet Professionals" - the Warrant Officers. Chiles tells their stories from World War II to Vietnam and up through the Global War on Terrorism. This book ranks with the best of those that detail the sacrifices our minorities, patriotic Americans, one and all, have made in war and always will.

- MarcYablonka, Author, "Distant War: Recollections of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia"

I read this book and was filled with a sense of pride in the many accomplishments of the African American Warrant Officers in Service to Our Country. This book is an inspiring reminder of the greatness inherent in our culture. "The Quiet Professionals - ready, willing and able." Thank you, Mr. Chiles.

- Mary Carter, CW5, Retired, USA

A true magnitude of a book, told through the eyes of a "Quiet Professional", that reflect the contributions of African American Warrant Officers who have impacted the military on all echelons. A "must" read book and addition to one's personal library.

- CW5 Martha Ervin, USA

African American Warrant Officers...In Service Our Country is a compilation, a virtual who's who, of African American warrant officers. The void is now filled in American History.

- Khalif Rasshan, Founder/Curator, The African American Museum of Beginnings

**AFRICAN AMERICAN WARRANT OFFICERS...
IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY**

Farrell J. Chiles

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First Edition

Warrant Officers Corps – Early History

In the United States Army, the warrant officer can be traced back to 1896, specifically to the headquarters clerk.

In 1916, congressional action established the Marine Corps grade of Warrant Officer Gunner, Quartermaster Clerk, and Pay Clerk.

The official birthday of the Army Warrant Officers Corps is July 9, 1918. At that time, warrant officers were not commissioned officers; but in reality, were considered civilians. The Judge Advocate General later determined that warrant officers held military status.

An act of Congress in 1918 established the Army Mine Planter Service as part of the Coast Artillery Corps. Implementation of the Act by the Army was published in War Department Bulletin 42, dated 22 July 1918.

The National Defense Act of 1920 provided for warrant officers to serve in clerical, administrative, and band leader positions. This act also authorized 1,120 warrant officers to be on active duty. During this time, warrant officers were excluded from performing duties from which enlisted personnel were excluded.

On May 12, 1921, a distinctive insignia was approved for Army Warrant Officers. It consisted of an eagle rising with wings displayed, adapted from the great seal of the United States. The eagle is standing on two arrows, which symbolize the military arts and sciences. The eagle rising is enclosed within a wreath.



The Warrant Officers of the Army Tank Corps were the first to wear this new insignia.

In 1922, warrant officer strength authorization was reduced from 1,120 to 600, exclusive of the number of Army Miner Planter Service warrant officers and Army Bandmasters. No warrant officer appointments other than band leaders and the Mine Planter Service were made between 1922 and 1935. Despite the authorized strength remaining at 600, subsequent laws authorized appointment of additional classes of certain personnel with specific qualifications to exceed authorized warrant officer strength.

I found no official records of African American warrant officers prior to 1941.

*On July 9, 2004, Army Warrant Officers were integrated into the Army Officer Branches. The Eagle Rising Insignia was replaced by the Officer Branch Insignia which corresponds to the branch of the Warrant Officer's primary military occupational specialty.

African Americans in the Warrant Officers Corps

The first African American warrant officer (Boatswain) in the United States Coast Guard was Joseph C. Jenkins – September 1, 1942.

The first African American warrant officer in the United States Navy was Warrant Officer (Boatswain) Charles B. Lear – February 1944.

The first African American warrant officer in the United States Marine Corps was James E. Johnson – 1959.

The first African American warrant officer in the United States Army – unknown.

From the internet, the following excerpt provided the War Department's policies pertaining to African American officers and warrant officers in 1940:

“The War Department under policies in effect in the summer of 1940 planned initially to provide white officers for all units which were not Reserve of National Guard. Additional units to which Negro officers could be assigned were to be assigned from time to times as Negro officers become available from the officer candidate schools. Negro chaplains could be used with any Negro unit and medical officers could be assigned to designated units. Warrant officers in Negro units were to be Negroes.

Variant policies, as in the case of warrant officers, developed out of the original ones as the supply of available officers and the numbers and types of Negro units changed. Despite the announced policy on warrant officers, repeated requests for clarification were made. Could Negro warrant officers be appointed to units with all white officers? The War Department sought to clarify the matter by reminding assignment agencies that all warrant officers authorized for Negro units should be Negroes. Alternative requests continued to come in, one of them from a tank battalion that wanted white warrant officers for existed vacancies and an authorization for nine additional white warrant officers. Ground Forces refused to consider the request,

because other Negro tank battalions would want the same arrangement: besides, it violated current War Department policy that requirements for Negro and white units should be exactly alike. Nevertheless, a compromise was arranged which allowed second lieutenants to be assigned to warrant officer vacancies "where it is definitely determined that Negro warrant officers of appropriate qualification" are not available. In this event, white second lieutenants were to be assigned to units having all white officers and Negro second lieutenants to units with Negro junior officers. Many Negro units already had and continued to retain white warrant officers despite the official ruling in the matter."

In December 1941 there were thirteen African American warrant officers in the United States Army.

This information was obtained from the Quarterly Negro Strength of the Army, By Category – December 1941 through December 1945. Source: Strength of the Army 1 Jan 46, STM-30, page 60. See table.

The next available strength report as of May 31, 1946 reflected a total of 130 African American warrant officers: See table entitle "African American Army Strength, 31 May 1946. Source: Strength of the Army 1 June 1946, page 40. See table.

By April 1948 there were only 41 black officers in the Regular Army, up from 8 in June 1945. At this time, the Army began a major effort to recruit more African American officers. In compliance with Circular 124, the Army was able to significantly improve these figures by 30 June 1948, when it reported a total "of 1,000 black commissioned officers, 5 warrant officers, and 67 nurses serving with 65,000 black enlisted men and women."

My research discovered the 24th annual Department of Defense Report on social representation in the U.S. Military Services. The report covered the fiscal year (FY) 1997 from October 1, 1996 to September 30, 1997. Excerpts from the report:

"Warrant officers account for 8 percent of active duty officer accessions (7 percent in the Selective Reserve) and 7 percent in the officer corps (9 percent in the Selective Reserve). Warrant officers do not serve in the Air Force. Warrant officers on active duty have greater

representation of African Americans and Hispanics than among commissioned officers, respectively. However, the same does not hold for Selected Reserve warrant officer accessions or officers: there are fewer minorities in the Reserve warrant ranks compared to commissioned officers. Minority warrant officers are underrepresented with respect to civilian college graduates”.

In March 2004, African Americans comprised 16.4% of Warrant Officers on Active Duty in the Army; 13% in the Army Reserves; and 4.1% in the Army National Guard.

Nine years later, in September 2013, African Americans comprised 18.7% of Warrant Officers on Active Duty in the Army; 17.0% in the Army Reserves; and 5.5% in the Army National Guard.

The first African American Female Warrant Officer was appointed in 1950. By 1978, the number had increased to 12. As of September 2013, there were 393 African American female Warrant Officers on Active Duty in the Army; 162 in the Army Reserve; and 118 in the Army National Guard. A significant note: the percentage of African American Female Warrant Officers compared to White Female Warrant Officers was 41.5% to 39.3%.

**Table 12 Quarterly Negro Strength of the Army,
By Category
December 1941 - December 1945**

Quarter or Month	Male Officers	Enlisted Men	Nurses	Dieticians	Physical Therapist	Warrant Officers	Flight Officers	WAAC and WAC Officers	WAAC and WAC Enlisted	Total
1941										
December	462	96,686	45	0	0	13	0	0	0	99,206
1942										
March	534	142,967	45	0	0	10	0	0	0	143,556
June	594	178,032	76	0	0	6	0	0	0	176,708
September	1,525	253,952	44	0	0	24	0	0	0	255,545
December	1,921	397,246	81	0	0	26	0	19	161	399,454
1943										
March	2,687	498,956	165	0	0	90	0	65	2,467	504,430
June	3,358	548,319	158	4	1	166	9	105	3,056	555,176
September	3,859	589,253	195	8	1	336	0	105	2,907	596,664
December	4,475	625,449	198	9	1	507	4	103	2,702	633,448
1944										
March	4,690	663,164	219	10	2	603	14	115	3,060	671,877
June	4,690	689,565	213	8	2	636	32	117	3,389	698,911
September	4,728	692,229	247	9	2	613	84	121	3,645	701,678
December	5,027	681,376	256	9	2	656	151	120	3,920	691,521
1945										
March	5,073	684,097	336	7	9	685	234	115	3,787	694,333
June	5,411	684,091	464	9	11	682	301	117	3,732	694,818
September	5,718	642,719	466	8	10	592	312	105	3,633	653,563
December	3,799	366,016	318	8	7	306	225	80	1,610	372,369

Source: Strength of the Army, 1 Jan 46, STM-30, page 60.

African American Strength, 31 May 1946

CONTINENTAL

Command	Officers	Enlisted	Nurses	Dieticians	Physical Therapists	Warrant Officers	Flight Officers
Army Air Forces	684	30,848	11			14	15
Army Ground Forces	196	9,902				20	
Army Service Forces	511	72,628	111	5	2	55	7
War Depart Groups	20	245					
Total Continental US	1,411	113,623	122	5	2	89	22

OVERSEAS

Command	Officers	Enlisted	Nurses	Dieticians	Physical Therapists	Warrant Officers	Flight Officers
Pacific Theater	318	33,490				11	
China and India-Burma Theaters		124					
Alaskan Department	9	1,125					
European Theater	375	27,891				15	
Mediterranean Theater	109	2,334				9	
Caribbean Defense CMD	38	508					
CG Army Air Forces		219					
En Route US To Theaters	75	3,773				6	
Total Outside Continental US	924	69,464				41	
AGGREGATE	2,335	183,087	122	5	2	130	22

Source: Strength of the Army, 1 June 1946, page 40.

**African American Warrant Officers
Active Duty Forces by Pay Grade – Including Coast Guard
March 2004**

Rank	Army	Navy	Marines	Coast Guard
W-5	48	2	12	0
W-4	177	45	27	8
W-3	634	104	100	35
W-2	799	173	114	60
W-1	314	0	56	0
Total	1,972	324	309	103

**African American Warrant Officers
Reserve Forces by Grade – Including Coast Guard
March 2004**

Rank	Army Reserve	Army National Guard	Navy Reserve	Marine Corps Reserve	Coast Guard Reserve
W-5	3	6	0	2	0
W-4	66	40	7	11	2
W-3	83	52	2	12	3
W-2	139	144	2	7	1
W-1	51	47	0	10	0
Total	342	289	11	43	6

**African American Warrant Officers
Active Duty Forces by Pay Grade – Including Coast Guard
September 2013**

Rank	Army	Navy	Marines	Coast Guard
W-5	98	9	15	0
W-4	452	96	30	22
W-3	720	159	71	28
W-2	1,332	129	106	53
W-1	335	0	10	0
Total	2,937	393	232	103

**African American Warrant Officers
Reserve Forces by Grade – Including Coast Guard
September 2013**

Rank	Army Reserve	Army National Guard	Navy Reserve	Marine Corps Reserve	Coast Guard Reserve
W-5	6	9	0	2	0
W-4	71	65	0	3	0
W-3	108	97	3	11	2
W-2	299	218	6	12	1
W-1	70	77	0	1	0
Total	554	486	9	29	3

**African American Female Warrant Officers
Active Duty Forces by Pay Grade – Including Coast Guard
September 2013**

Rank	Army	Navy	Marines	Coast Guard
W-5	12	3	1	0
W-4	72	6	0	2
W-3	182	18	7	5
W-2	303	14	10	9
W-1	88	0	10	0
Total	637	41	21	16

**African American Female Warrant Officers
Reserve Forces by Pay Grade – Including Coast Guard
September 2013**

Rank	Army Reserve	Army National Guard	Navy Reserve	Marine Corps Reserve	Coast Guard Reserve
W-5	2	5	0	1	0
W-4	15	13	0	0	0
W-3	33	29	0	0	0
W-2	97	59	0	2	0
W-1	15	12	0	0	0
Total	162	118	0	3	0

**Strength of African American Warrant Officers
of the Women's Army Corps, 1950 – 1978**

Year #

1950	1
1951	1
1952	1
1953- 1960	0

**1961 – 1971 (No statistics maintained on African American
personnel)**

Year #

1972	5
1973	4
1974	6
1975	6
1976	6
1977	8
1978	12

Definitions and History of the Army Warrant Officer

In 1985 the Army developed a new definition of the Warrant Officer that encompassed all warrant officer specialties.

An officer appointed by warrant by the Secretary of the Army, based upon a sound level of technical and tactical competence. The warrant officer is the highly specialized expert and trainer, who, by gaining progressive levels of expertise and leadership, operates, maintains, administers, and manages the Army's equipment, support activities, or technical systems for an entire career. (Para 1-7, DA Pamphlet 600-11).

Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-3, Commissioned Officer Professional Development and Career Management, 14 October 2005, provided a new Warrant Officer Definition:

“The Army WO is a self-aware and adaptive technical expert, combat leader, trainer, and advisor. Through progressive levels of expertise in assignments, training, and education, the WO administers, manages, maintains, operates, and integrates Army systems and equipment across the full spectrum of Army operations. Warrant Officers are innovative integrators of emerging technologies, dynamic teachers, confident warfighters, and developers of specialized teams of soldiers. They support a wide range of Army missions throughout their career. Warrant officers in the Army are assessed with specific levels of technical ability. They refine their technical expertise and develop their leadership and management skills through tiered progressive assignment and education.”

Total Warrant Officer Study (TWOS)

In August 1985, the final report of the Department of the Army Total Warrant Officer Study (TWOS) was forwarded to the Army

Chief of Staff. This first-ever DA comprehensive analysis of the Total Army warrant officer program provided the opportunity to capture current strengths of the program and build upon those to develop a management and training system that focused on the Army of the 90's and beyond.

Every aspect of the warrant officer management and development was examined in detail – from recruiting to separation – from force structure to Programs of Instruction (POI's).

One of the recommendations of the TWOS was the establishment of the CW5 rank. In 1985, the Army Chief of Staff approved that recommendation. Finally, on December 5, 1991, Congress approved the Warrant Officer Management Act (which included the CW5 authorization). On October 1, 1992, the first warrant officer was promoted to CW5.

African American warrant officers serving on the TWOS study group were CW3 Robert Leggett, Military Police Corps Action Officer; CW2 (P) Carl M. Burnett, Engineer Corps Action Officer; and CW2 Judith A. Davis, Signal Corps, Action Officer.

Army Development System (ADS) XXI Task Force

In September 1999, the Army Chief of Staff chartered the Army Development System (ADS) XXI Task Force to examine the enlisted and warrant officer personnel management system.

In May 2001, the Army acted on the Warrant Officer Personnel Management changes. With 23 of 24 ADS XXI initiatives approved by the Army Chief of Staff, the Army moved to refine its personnel management systems.

African American warrant officers serving on the task force included CW5 Don J. Everhart, CW4 Alexander L. Brown, and CW5(R) Ronald L. McLendon.

United States Army Warrant Officers Association

The genesis of the current association for Army Warrant Officers was an idea generated in Indianapolis, Indiana in July 1972. Out of this group was formed the United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA).

The European Warrant Officers Association, a separate organization of concerned warrant officers was also formed during the same period as the USAWOA. After personal contact and review of similar objectives, the European Warrant Officers Association merged with the USAWOA and became the European Region. The European Region was the stabilizing force for the Association as USAWOA sought to build membership in the United States.

USAWOA became incorporated as a not-for-profit association in Virginia on November 7, 1974.

Objectives

As stated in its Articles of Incorporation, the USAWOA was established to:

- Foster a spirit of patriotism and devotion to duty among members, commensurate with the high ideals of the Army and their position.
- Recommend programs for the improvement of the Army.
- Disseminate professional information among warrant officers.
- Promote the technical and social welfare of its members.
- Promote a spirit of true comradeship among its members.

Organization

USAWOA is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of a National President, Vice President, Secretary, and six Regional Directors elected by the membership, plus an appointed National

Treasurer. An Executive Committee of the Board is responsible for overall operation of the Association.

Philosophy

USAWOA's basic philosophy is to work within the system to present knowledgeable and professional concerns that affect policy. USAWOA does not involve itself in personal matters of warrant officers for accessions, assignments, assignments, promotions or retirement. Its current method of meeting its objectives involves a two-pronged approach. First, USAWOA acquire professional information for circulation to warrant officers from its official and unofficial contacts within the Department of the Army, Department of Defense, Congress, the Military Coalition, and other organizations.

Secondly, and just as important, the Association acts as a focal point to receive professional recommendations, suggestions, concerns and general comments from warrant officers in the field and, after analysis, review, study, and approval, present these views to the appropriate offices with the support of the USAWOA.

African American warrant officers have played significant roles in the leadership of USAWOA. African American warrant officers participate at the local chapter levels serving as chapter presidents, in other officer positions, and on various committees. They have served in many capacities and have received acknowledgement for their contributions and achievement. A sampling of their participation and achievements include:

Leadership

President

CW4 Carl Burnett, 1994

Board Member

CW4 Percy Butler, 1982 - 1985

CW3 Jim Wilson, 1986 - 1988

CW4 Carl Burnett, 1992-1994

African American Warrant Officers...In Service to Our Country

CW4 Mary F. Carter, 1994-1998
CW3 Farrell J. Chiles, 2002-2004
CW4 James E. Davis, 2008 – 2011
CW4 Ida Tyree-Hyche, 2010 – 2012

European Region President
CW4 Percy D. Butler, 1980 - 1981
CW3 Jim Wilson, 1985-1986
CW4 Willie Starnes, 1994 – 1995
CW4 Noel Smith, 2003 – 2004

European Region Director
CW3 Jim Wilson, 1986 – 1988

National Secretary
CW2 Joy Y. Teagle, 1996-1998

National Treasurer
CW2 Alice Reed, 1994
CW5 Willie Brown, 2001

Assistant Vice President for Reserve Affairs
CW3 Farrell J. Chiles, 1999-2002
CW4 Ida Tyree-Hyche, 2002-2004

Assistant Vice President for Veterans Affairs
CW4 (R) Percy D. Butler, 2004 – 2014

USAWOA Scholarship Foundation
CW5 (R) Rufus N. Montgomery
CW5 (R) Eddie E. Mallard

Warrant Officer Historical Foundation
CW5 (R) Ida Tyree-Hyche

Don Hess Presidential Award

CW4 (R) Carl Burnett

CW4 (R) Jim Wilson

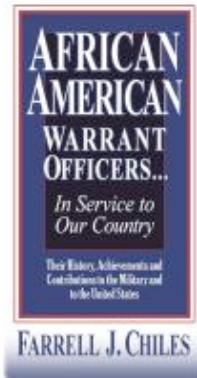
CW4 Albert M. Holcombe Memorial Outstanding Warrant Officer
of the Year Award

CW3 Mary F. Carter, 1994

CW3 Farrell J. Chiles, 1998

CW3 Patrick Morris, 2010

Other African American warrant officers have made significant contributions to USAWOA. I will ensure that they get their deserving mention in the next edition of this book.



African American Warrant Officers... In Service to Our Country tells the stories of unsung African American warrant officers who have served our country in and out of the military. This collection of historical articles, inspiring biographies, and profiles highlights the significant contributions of individual African American warrant officers from World War II to the present, with remarkable detail and language befitting their valor.

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